
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Stanford, Middlebury Strain to Shield Their Study-Abroad Students in Japan

U.S. colleges are scrambling to assure the safety of their students on study-abroad programs in the wake of the Japanese earthquake and revolutions and violence in the Middle East. While [Europe](#) remains the most common study-abroad destination, accounting for 55 percent of students in the 2008- 09 school year, the share going to [Asia](#) has almost doubled to 11 percent from nine years earlier, according to the institute. About 5,800 American students took courses in Japan, and 1,780 in [Egypt](#).

Peace Corps hits big 5-0

"The Peace Corps is a blend of physical, intellectual and emotional challenges," he said. "Imagine going weeks without seeing another American or speaking English." Despite the challenges, Grolle said that he credits the Peace Corps for giving him the opportunity to travel the world and help others. "I am glad to have been part of the Peace Corps and served my country," he said. "I was able to help provide education to students in the Congo, but I feel as though I got more benefits than those I was helping including language skills, job skills and cross-cultural experience."

China on their minds

Last fall, Medfield High School freshman Katrina Simon and her family hosted an exchange student from China, immersing the young woman in American experiences ranging from apple picking to shopping at the Apple computer store. Now, Simon hopes Melody — the student's adopted American name — can return the favor and be her guide in China. "After talking to her and learning more about Chinese culture, I thought it was really interesting," Simon said. "I really wanted to go and see it for myself with my own eyes." Medfield's school district has partnered with a school in Bengbu, a city in China's Anhui province, for an extensive exchange program. Medfield hosted the school's principal two years ago, followed by a visit to China by Superintendent Robert Maguire.

Boulder Valley schools luckier than many with budget cuts

Budget cuts originally necessitated a single large class. Stimulus money could have allowed the class to be split, but by the time it arrived, Shirai already had committed to teaching four periods of German, plus another of Japanese. She needed to schedule prep time for five different curricula. She could have capped enrollment at 35, but with German already disappearing from middle schools, and given the natural attrition from foreign language classes, Shirai thought the course should be open to as many kids as possible. Now, she's challenged, stretched to the limit — and grateful.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK

Foreign Language Week is designed to teach students about the different cultures of our world, as well as the advantages of taking a foreign language. "My hope is that students will learn more about the cultures of the countries in which each of the foreign languages we teach at Granby are spoken," said French teacher Jennifer Carson. Students around the school celebrated by creating posters endorsing the importance of taking a foreign language. Poster headlines included "Hit the ground running with a foreign language," "Languages are like flowers, beautiful and varied," and "Language is like music, it's everywhere."

186 District 95 Students Use English Language Learner Program

There are currently 186 students who have accepted services from Community Unit School District 95's English Language Learner (ELL) program, according to Stacie Noisey, school administrator. Currently, ELL students are mostly serviced through a pull-out model at the elementary schools. At the middle schools and high school, students are serviced during regularly scheduled periods, and may be seen

more than one period a day. "The program builds information in the students' native language, and then transitions students into English," explained Noisey.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Complex Mission Hampers U.S. Effort

In one sign of the stress as the nuclear crisis unfolded, an American official helping to coordinate activities with the Japanese Self Defense Forces grew teary-eyed when discussing these cooperative efforts. To be sure, that official said the two militaries were largely on the same wavelength. But other U.S. and Japanese military sources said language, protocol and cultural barriers had proved more daunting than expected, especially for two close allies.

Ham makes first visit to Africa as new commander

Ham also emphasized that he would like to see U.S. troops better trained in African cultures and languages. Ham is asking all AFRICOM personnel, himself included, to spend one hour each day studying a language. He said he would spend the long plane trips to and from the continent learning French with the help of the language-learning software Rosetta Stone. "That's my objective," he said. "We'll see how this plays out, to see if I am personally disciplined enough to do this."

UNC-system schools may be forced to cut foreign language programs

The ever-present burden of budget cuts is forcing UNC-system schools to follow a national trend of bidding "adieu" to foreign language programs. A report published by the University of California, Riverside said the number of universities offering undergraduate degree programs in European languages and literatures — Romance, Germanic and Slavic — declined steeply from 1971 to 2006.

Family Vacation – Unique Learning Family Travel Program Offered

New York City's highly regarded children's foreign language program, The Carousel of Languages, is currently accepting reservations for the 7th year of its popular Family Travel Program, a unique linguistic and cultural journey for children and their families. "Children participate in a week-long program exploring foreign language, culture, architecture, and art," explains Patrizia Saraceni Corman – who is a mother and the Founding Director of The Carousel of Languages (formerly known as Italian for Toddlers). "Each day children enjoy unique, fun-filled excursions and exciting customized adventures – while accompanied by trained teachers, professional tour guides."

STARTALK 2011 - Teacher Programs in DC

The George Washington University will hold a one-week, 40 hour, intensive summer institute -- "Arabic for Teachers of Arabic" -- in Washington, DC to be led by Dr. Muhammad Eissa of the University of Chicago. The purpose of this institute is to raise the awareness of Arabic K-12 teachers about the structures, morphology, and cultural content of the Arabic language in the context of teaching Arabic as a second language. By the end of the institute, teachers will have a refreshed, explicit understanding of the most important linguistic features of Arabic, and an understanding of how to teach them in context in a standards-based, communication-oriented classroom. The institute will accommodate 24 teachers and instructors of Arabic, of all grades and levels, native and non-native speakers, and teachers with more and less formal education about the Arabic language.

Language Translation Software Market Shares and Forecasts, Worldwide, 2011-2017

Hybrid machine translation is evolving more sophisticated software that actually works well enough to be useful; The hybrid systems provide dramatic improvement, creating the ability to use machine translation in a wide variety of situations. Hybrid machine translation combines the features of statistical and rules based approaches. Human language technology solution combines the strengths of rule-based and statistical systems. The term hybrid in this context means statistical MT (SMT) systems use examples and apply statistical techniques to a large body of language data to perform translations combined with rules based approaches.

TCAPS Votes for Foreign Language Program

Traverse City Area Public School Board members voted last night to start teaching foreign languages in their elementary schools. In a six to one vote, the board elected to fully implement foreign languages in third, fourth and fifth grade despite a projected six million dollar budget deficit. Foreign language class will be taken out of regular classroom time. Schools will begin teaching the languages in the fall. The district will begin budget talks next month. Board members say they plan to talk in the future about implementing foreign languages in kindergarten through second grade.

Raising your child bilingually

You may be lucky to have the option to raise your child bilingually, but there may be fears and doubts. Is there a price to pay, and does the cost outweigh the benefits? A few years ago early bilingualism was rather not supported because it was thought to harm the development of the first language. This view is changing. Obvious opportunities for a bilingual education are living in a country where another language is spoken, having a partner speaking another language or having access to an educational system operating in another language or another caretaker. More than half of the world population is bilingual, so it is more the norm than an exception.

Virtual schools teaching states valuable lessons

A few years ago, when he was governor of West Virginia, Bob Wise attended a graduation ceremony at Pickens High School in Randolph County, a tiny school on top of a mountain where the graduating class consisted of only two students. As he was leaving, he asked the principal how the school was able to attract foreign language teachers. "He laughed and said, 'We have one of the best Spanish instructors in the country.' And I said, 'How could that be possible here on this mountain?' And he pointed to a satellite dish and he said, 'She comes in every day at 10 o'clock from San Antonio, Texas.' "That's when I learned the power of distance learning," said Wise, now the president of the Alliance for Excellent Education. Many states are increasingly learning the same lesson. A combination of higher proficiency standards and tighter budgets are prompting school officials to look more closely than ever at online education.

Philippine DepEd offers HS students more foreign languages courses

DepEd's Bureau of Secondary Education chief Director Lolita Andrada said the Special Program in Foreign Language is designed for schools whose students have demonstrated competence first in English before they start to learn another foreign language. "Studies have shown that facility in just one foreign language is now perceived as a disadvantage in a global market that is culturally and linguistically diverse," added Andrada.

ECOLT Call for Papers

With the support of the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), Second Language Testing, Inc. (SLTI), Georgetown University, and the National Capital Language Resource Center (NCLRC), the East Coast Organization of Language Testers (ECOLT) will hold its tenth annual conference on **October 28-29, 2011** in Washington, D.C.

As Thomas Jefferson adds help for poor English skills, some Va. parents fume

As Northern Virginia became home to more immigrant families in recent decades, Fairfax County officials say they started programs to teach English as a second language at every school — about 200 of them. Except one. The holdout was the region's hallowed magnet school, [Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology](#), where many assumed that steep admissions standards rendered such a program for English language learners unnecessary. But next year, at the behest of the school's teachers, Thomas Jefferson — often called TJ — plans to hire its first instructor to cater to a growing number of students who thrive in math and science classes but sometimes struggle with English.